WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of operating an image input scanner, the image input scanner including a first image scanning module (ISM) for recording images from a first side of each of a plurality of sheets in standard operation, and a second image scanning module (ISM) for recording images from a second side of each of a plurality of sheets in standard operation, the first ISM and the second ISM being arranged along a path, a tray disposed at a beginning of the path for retaining a stack of sheets for scanning by the first ISM and the second ISM, and a user interface operative associated with the image input scanner, comprising:

determining that an output of the first ISM is unsatisfactory;

communicating through the user interface an instruction to arrange the plurality of sheets in the tray in a predetermined orientation; and

recording the first side of each of the plurality of sheets with the second ISM.

- 2. The method of claim 1, the determining step including determining that the first ISM is not operational.
- 3. The method of claim 1, the determining step including determining that the first ISM is capable of outputting degraded image data.
- 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising communicating through the user interface that the first ISM is outputting degraded image data.
- 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining that an output of the second ISM is unsatisfactory.
- 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising communicating through the user interface that the second ISM is outputting degraded image data.

7. A method of operating an image input scanner, the image input scanner including a first image scanning module (ISM) for recording images from a first side of each of a plurality of sheets in standard operation, and a second image scanning module (ISM) for recording images from a second side of each of a plurality of sheets in standard operation, the first ISM and the second ISM being arranged along a path, a tray disposed at a beginning of the path for retaining a stack of sheets for scanning by the first ISM and the second ISM, and a user interface operative associated with the image input scanner, comprising:

determining that an output of the first ISM is unsatisfactory; and communicating through the user interface that the first ISM is outputting degraded image data.

- 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising
- communicating through the user interface an instruction to arrange the plurality of sheets in the tray in a predetermined orientation; and

recording the first side of each of the plurality of sheets with the second ISM.

- 9. The method of claim 7, further comprising determining that an output of the second ISM is unsatisfactory.
- 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising communicating through the user interface that the second ISM is outputting degraded image data.